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Agenda item 134
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Committee following informal consultations

Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 60/254 of 8 May 2006, section I of its resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006 and its resolutions 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 61/245 of 22 December 2006, 63/276 of 7 April 2009, 64/259 of 29 March 2010, 66/257 of 9 April 2012, 67/253 of 12 April 2013, 68/264 of 9 April 2014, 69/272 of 2 April 2015, 70/255 of 1 April 2016 and 71/283 of 6 April 2017,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat and the accountability of the Secretary-General for the performance of the Secretariat to all Member States,

Emphasizing that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at all levels of the Secretariat, especially at the highest level,

Recognizing and reaffirming the important role of the oversight bodies in the development of an accountability system that is relevant to the United Nations,

Having considered the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat: strengthening the accountability system of the Secretariat under the new management paradigm[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat: strengthening the accountability system of the Secretariat under the new management paradigm;[1]

[1] A/72/773.
[2] A/72/885.

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2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. *Stresses* the indispensable roles of external and internal oversight mechanisms, carried out through regular audit reviews and the issuance of pertinent recommendations, and that the full and timely implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, which are aimed at strengthening the performance of managers in monitoring the activities for which they are held accountable, is an essential part of any effective system of accountability;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of its resolution 71/283, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to ensure implementation of the provisions thereof, including outreach activities to staff at all levels on the content of the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat[3] and of the policy on protection against retaliation;[4]

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General towards a strong culture of accountability throughout the Secretariat, acknowledges that a culture of accountability stems from the leadership of an organization, and stresses that an effective accountability system is central to successful management of the Organization;

6. *Stresses*, as one of the essential components of accountability, the importance of compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, its resolutions and the regulations and rules;

7. *Recalls* paragraphs 8 and 10 of its resolution 71/283;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts aimed at improving the culture of accountability in the Secretariat, including by continuing to encourage, inter alia, a conducive environment for the reporting of fraud, waste and misconduct, and to continue to take appropriate measures for the protection of whistle-blowers and the prevention of retaliation;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes with regret that implementation of, follow-up to and reporting on compliance with the resolutions of the General Assembly that pertain specifically to the accountability system remain inconsistent, and reiterates that this information should be included in performance reports on the programme budget;

10. *Reiterates* that the timely submission of documents is an important aspect of the accountability of the Secretariat to Member States, notes the ongoing efforts to address the underlying challenges related to documentation, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued inclusion in the senior managers' compacts of a related managerial indicator;

11. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide more details on the measures taken to combat sexual harassment in the Organization and to report thereon in the context of his next report on human resources management;

12. *Also recalls* paragraph 35 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his eighth progress report on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, to include comprehensive information on the outcome of his efforts related to streamlining and simplifying the internal policy framework on accountability;

[3] ST/IC/2016/25, annex.
[4] ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1.

13. *Reaffirms* that results-based management and performance reporting are essential pillars of a comprehensive accountability framework;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of results-based management and the need to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for programme monitoring and reporting, and requests an update on measures taken in the context of the eighth progress report;

15. *Notes* the development of the action plan for the implementation of results-based management in the United Nations Secretariat, 2018–2021[5] as a critical element of the accountability system, and requests an update on progress made towards the implementation of the action plan in the context of the eighth progress report;

16. *Emphasizes* that evaluation and self-evaluation are essential managerial tools and that senior managers have the responsibility to use evaluation and self-evaluation findings to improve performance and learning, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to take concrete measures to enhance in-house capacity for self-evaluation, including self-evaluation support within the Secretariat, taking advantage of the existing knowledge and expertise of oversight bodies to ensure that all efforts are made to avoid the duplication and/or overlapping of efforts;

17. *Stresses* the need for the Secretary-General to address the deficiencies in the current system of delegation of authority through the promulgation of well-defined roles and responsibilities of individuals at all levels to whom authority is delegated, systemic reporting mechanisms on monitoring and exercise of delegated authority, risk mitigation and safeguard measures, and actions to be taken in cases of mismanagement or abuse of authority;

18. *Notes* the measures taken to strengthen senior managers' compacts, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the effectiveness of these compacts as instruments of accountability in the context of future progress reports on accountability in the United Nations Secretariat;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 19 of its resolution 71/283, and requests the Secretary-General to include in future progress reports an overview of the status of accountability in the Secretariat, including information on the impact of specific accountability measures.

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[5] A/72/773, annex II.